

REMARKS

This application is a continuation of application Serial No. 10/084,806, filed February 25, 2002, which is a continuation of Application Serial No. 09/696,651, filed October 25, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,375,608, which is a continuation of Application Serial No. 09/483,466, filed January 14, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,165,122, which is a continuation of Application Serial No. 08/935,723, filed September 23, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 6,077,218, which is a continuation of Application Serial No. 08/720,556, filed October 2, 1996, now U.S. Patent No. 5,702,343.

Claims 28 - 48 are pending. Applicant asserts domestic priority for each of claims 28 - 48 under 35 U.S.C. § 120 at least back to October 2, 1996.

The claims in this application are similar in scope, but not identical in scope, to the claims that issued in U.S. Patent No. 6,375,608. The 6,375,608 patent is in this family of cases. Applicant has changed the claims in order to clarify certain points. Applicant has included a Terminal Disclaimer with respect to the 6,375,608 patent. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that there should be no problems regarding obviousness-type double patenting in view of the 6,375,608 patent.

Applicant has submitted an Information Disclosure Statement herewith. The Examiner is requested to consider the pending claims with respect to the art cited in the Information Disclosure Statement.


The Examiner's attention is directed to the other patents that have issued in this family. These include: 5,702,343; 6,126,590; 6,077,218; 6,165,121; 6,165,122; 6,375,608; and 6,544,168. These patents have been cited on the Information Disclosure Statement. The Examiner is requested to consider the pending claims with respect to the issued claims for any issues of patenting or obviousness-type double patenting. The Examiner's attention is also directed to the parent application, Application Serial No. 10/367,346. The Examiner is requested to consider those claims with respect to the pending claims for any issues of provisional double patenting or provisional obviousness-type double patenting. A Terminal Disclaimer has been filed herewith for the 6,375,608 patent. If the Examiner believes a Terminal Disclaimer is needed for any other patents, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned who will arrange for the execution of a Terminal Disclaimer.

Applicant requests examination and a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Date: 9-26-03



Julie R. Daulton
Reg. No. 36,414
JRD:st